

CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. gain an understanding of the events of the Battle of Puebla
2. compare and contrast this battle with events in American history, especially Abraham Lincoln and Benito Juarez.
3. experience Mexican cooking, vocabulary, and customs

TEKS: SS 3.12 (B), 3.16 (C), 4.20 (B), 5.23 (B), LA 3.2 (B), 4.4 (B), 5.4 (B)

Materials Needed: children's books on Cinco de Mayo, copies of Word Search (Attachment 3), supplies for cooking activity (Attachment 4)

Vocabulary: turmoil, invade, foothold, ill-equipped

Teaching Strategy:

1. Remind students that Mexicans celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the same enthusiasm as Americans celebrate the Fourth of July. Ask students to brainstorm some words associated with the Fourth of July. (fireworks, picnics, bar-b-que, holiday, parties, freedom, independence.) Students should understand that many of these words apply to Cinco de Mayo, too.
2. Review the events surrounding the Battle of Puebla, the origin of Cinco de Mayo, using children's books from the library.
3. The President of Mexico at that time, Benito Juarez, has been called the "Abraham Lincoln of Mexico." Summarize the attached document (Attachment 1) comparing the two Presidents and ask students to analyze the information. Ask the students what facts about each of their lives and careers would warrant that comparison. Record on overhead.
4. Tell students that in honor of Cinco de Mayo, they will be learning some Spanish words and experiencing some Spanish cooking. Distribute word list (Attachment 2) and assist students in pronunciation. These words are incorporated into a Word Search (Attachment 3), which the students will complete.
5. Prepare Tortilla Wraps, as outlined in Attachment 4.

Cinco de Mayo History

Cinco de Mayo, the 5th of May, 1862, was a significant date in the histories of both the United States and Mexico, when both countries looked to their leaders to unite their nations.

The leader of the United States was President Abraham Lincoln. He was born in 1809 to a poor family. He was self-educated, studied law, entered politics, and in 1846 became a U.S. Congressman. The leader of Mexico was President Benito Juarez. He was born in 1806, a full blooded North American Indian who spoke the Zapotec Indian dialect until he was 13. He also studied law, entered politics, and in 1846 became a Mexican Congressman. Juarez greatly admired Lincoln's unpopular opinion against the war with Mexico from 1846-1848, during the time they were both in the congress of their countries.



Juarez became president of Mexico in 1858, and Lincoln became President of the U.S. in 1860. It was a time of great turmoil in both countries. One of Lincoln's great fears was that French Emperor Napoleon III would get involved in the U.S. Civil War by helping the Confederacy and gaining a foothold in our continent. Lincoln had to rely on Juarez to keep the French troops out of the U.S.



When Napoleon's troops, under the leadership of Maximilian, landed in Mexico in 1862, Juarez ordered his general, Ignacio Zaragoza, a Texan, to attack the French at the City of Puebla, on May 5, 1862. Even though outnumbered 2 to 1, Zaragoza and his 5000 ill-equipped troops defeated Napoleon III's experienced troops, thus showing the Mexican people that they could have faith in themselves and in their leaders.

Benito Juarez sent his wife Margarita and his family to New York in 1863, to keep them out of harm's way. Upon her arrival, Margarita was entertained as the wife of a head of state at a presidential reception in Washington, D.C., and later was honored at a dinner held by Secretary Stewart and a ball given by General Grant. Sadly, Benito and Margarita's two sons, one a U.S. citizen, died while living in New York and are buried there.

Several weeks after the surrender of the Confederacy in April of 1865, Lincoln sent a stern message to Napoleon III that 600,000 superior Union troops in the U.S. would cross the Mexican border if the French troops did not withdraw. Although Lincoln was killed shortly thereafter, the next President, Andrew Johnson, continued to support Juarez. He sent guns and supplies Juarez's troops. In addition, some American soldiers fought with Juarez's army.

The French troops finally left Mexico, and Maximilian was tried and executed. The United States Government helped the reunion of the Juarez family by offering the use of a boat to Madam Juarez and her family, fourteen persons in all. On July 14, 1867, the boat docked at Veracruz, and Margarita and the family were reunited with Juarez.



The United States owes a big thanks to Benito Juarez for keeping the French out of our Civil War and preventing a new European presence on our continent.

Adapted from PGSCA, "History of Cinco de Mayo." Used with permission

Attachment 2

Spanish Words

<u>Spanish</u>	<u>English</u>
sombrero	hat
fiesta	party
flores	flowers
cinco	five
Mayo	May
puebla	city
Hola	Hello
Adios	Goodbye
verde	green
rojo	red
blanco	white
amigo	friend
guerra	war
si	no
celebracion	celebration
?Como estas?	How are you?
Muy bien	Very well
Por favor	Please
Gracias	Thank you

Word Search

Cinco de Mayo

f	i	e	s	t	a	o	w	i	b	n
f	l	o	r	e	s	o	s	l	o	s
g	u	e	r	r	a	M	a	i	g	k
r	p	y	u	b	a	n	c	k	r	o
n	o	r	x	y	c	a	v	s	a	r
o	n	v	o	o	r	k	t	o	c	e
g	f	u	a	b	r	n	j	i	i	r
i	f	x	e	f	H	o	i	d	a	b
m	e	l	m	m	r	o	j	A	s	m
a	e	r	m	q	h	o	l	o	x	o
c	a	l	b	u	e	p	p	a	c	s

Adios
amigo
blanco
celebracion
fiesta

flores
gracias
guerra
Hola
Mayo

peubla
porfavor
rojo
si
sombbrero

Tortilla Wrap Activity

Hands-on activities make learning fun for students. Don't forget to practice good sanitation and safety!

For this activity you will need:

- **Tortillas:** corn, whole wheat, tomato, herb (one per student)
- **Shredded cheese:** cheddar, mozzarella, Swiss, American (about 1oz or slice/student)
- **Fresh vegetables:** shredded lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, green pepper (1 Tbls/student)
- **Canned Beans:** refried beans, black beans, kidney beans (2 Tbls/student)
- **Meat:** (cooked, shredded or sliced) chicken, ham, beef, turkey (1 oz or slice/student)
- **Prepared Salsa** (1 Tbls/student)
- **Paper plates**
- **Plastic spoons** for serving ingredients

Have students wash their hands, tables, and all surfaces that food will come in contact with.

- Place individual ingredients on plates, along with a serving spoon.
- Assemble the plates on a table, buffet style.
- Let students choose their own fillings. Have them place a small amount of the ingredients in a tortilla to make their wrap. Be sure to instruct them to place the ingredients near the edge of one side of the tortilla.
- Roll it up when all the desired fillings have been added.
- Do not let them use too much or too many ingredients. If the tortilla is too full, it will not roll.